

1. (Amended Twice) A barrier assembly for protecting a loading platform, the loading platform having a loading edge and a personnel entrance distal from and substantially parallel to the loading edge, the barrier assembly comprising:

5 a pair of parallel guide rails, each shaped generally as an inverted-U, each having a first substantially vertical portion, a second substantially vertical portion opposite the first substantially vertical portion and a substantially horizontal portion interconnecting the first and second substantially vertical portions;

10 a first gate segment having at least one pair of rollers positioned on opposite lateral sides thereof, each roller being received within a respective one of the guide rails so that the first gate segment is guided by the pair of guide rails;

B1 a second gate segment having at least one pair of rollers positioned on opposite lateral sides thereof, each roller being received within a respective one of the guide rails so that the second gate segment is guided by the pair of guide rails; and

15 at least one substantially rigid first cross-bar pivotally connected between the first and second gate segments, wherein the first cross-bar is free to reciprocate with respect to the guide rails in a path that is at least partially horizontal;

20 the first gate segment being guided by the pair of guide rails from a barrier position in which the first gate segment is positioned entirely within the first substantially vertical portions of the pair of guide rails to an open position in which the first gate segment is positioned at least partially in the substantially horizontal portions of the pair of guide rails;

the second gate segment being guided by the pair of guide rails from a barrier position in which the second gate segment is positioned entirely within the second substantially vertical portions of the pair of guide rails to an open position where the second gate segment is positioned at least partially in the substantially horizontal portions of the pair of guide rails; and

25 the first cross-bar having a length which requires that when the first gate segment is in its barrier position the second gate segment will be in its open position, and vice-versa.

15 18. (Amended Twice) A barrier assembly for protecting a loading platform, the loading platform having a loading edge and a personnel entrance distal from and substantially parallel to the loading edge, the barrier assembly comprising:

5 a pair of guide rails, each having a first substantially vertical portion, a second substantially vertical portion opposite the first substantially vertical portion, a substantially horizontal portion extending between top ends of the first and second substantially vertical portions and a pair of curved portions connecting the first and second substantially vertical portions to the substantially horizontal portion;

10 a first gate segment having at least one pair of rollers positioned on opposite lateral sides thereof, each roller being received within a respective one of the guide rails so that the first gate segment is guided by the pair of guide rails;

B2 a second gate segment having at least one pair of rollers positioned on opposite lateral sides thereof, each roller being received within a respective one of the guide rails so that the second gate segment is guided by the pair of guide rails; and

15 at least one substantially rigid first cross-bar pivotally connected between the first and second gate segments, wherein the first cross-bar is free to reciprocate with respect to the guide rails in a path that is at least partially horizontal;

20 the cross-bar being of sufficient length so that when the first gate segment is positioned completely within the first substantially vertical portions of the pair of guide rails, the second gate segment will be positioned at least partially within the substantially horizontal portions or the curved portions connecting the second substantially vertical portions to the substantially horizontal portions of the pair of guide rails, and likewise, when the second gate segment is positioned completely within the second substantially vertical portions of the pair of guide rails, the first gate segment will be positioned at least partially within the substantially horizontal portions or the curved portions connecting the first substantially vertical portions to the substantially horizontal portions of the pair of guide rails.

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Amendment

17/20. (Amended) A barrier assembly for protecting a loading platform, the loading platform having a loading edge and a personnel entrance distal from and substantially parallel to the loading edge, the barrier assembly comprising:

5 a pair of parallel guide rails, each shaped generally as an inverted-U, each having a first substantially vertical portion, a second substantially vertical portion opposite the first substantially vertical portion and a substantially horizontal portion interconnecting the first and second substantially vertical portions;

10 a first gate segment having at least one pair of rollers positioned on opposite lateral sides thereof, each roller being received within a respective one of the guide rails so that the first gate segment is guided by the pair of guide rails;

B3 a second gate segment having at least one pair of rollers positioned on opposite lateral sides thereof, each roller being received within a respective one of the guide rails so that the second gate segment is guided by the pair of guide rails; and

15 at least one substantially rigid cross-bar pivotally connected between the first and second gate segments, the cross-bar being movable to and away from the first and second substantially vertical portions of the guide rails in a path having a horizontal component, thereby permitting the first and second gate segments to be guided, at least partially, into the substantially horizontal portions of the guide rails.

REMARKS

Summary of the October 17, 2000 Telephone Interview

Int second OK 11/30/00 DB
The applicant wishes to thank Examiner Thompson and Examiner Stodola for their courtesies extended during the telephone interview of October 17, 2000. The purpose of the interview, requested by the undersigned, was to present a set of proposed claim amendments to